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ESTABLISHED 1848 SAINT LOUIS, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1881. No. 9, Vol. XXXIV.

### Sorgo Department.

The Rural World is the only journal in the United States having a special department devoted to sorgho and sugar making from sorgho.

#### Another Sugar Works.

COL. COLMAN: I have a steam mill, 25-horse power, with large boiler, and want to put up a sugar works and run it by steam and boil by steam, and wish to get all the information I can for raising cane and making a fine quality of syrup and sugar. The soil is good here for raising cane. I want to get any books, pamphlets, &c., relating to the industry that can be obtained. What shall I get?

JACOB HENDERSHOTT.

#### Macon Co., Mo.

REPLY.—Mr. I. A. Hedges' treatise on the northern cane and the RURAL WORLD will give you all necessary information. With the steam machinery you have on hand, you ought to plant and have planted several hundred acres of cane the coming season, and make a good deal of money. You want everything of large capacity, for in nothing does it pay better to do things on a large scale than in making syrup and sugar. Mr. Hedges' treatise can be furnished at the RURAL WORLD office and mailed, postage prepaid, for \$1.

#### Two Sides.

COL. COLMAN: Some time ago Mr. Hedges said: "Let us have both sides of this question." Here are the two sides: Last season, for the first time, I made molasses. I made the molasses on the most approved plan that a new beginner, with limited means, could—taking as my guide the RURAL and Mr. Hedges' book. I made 630 gallons of a better grade than usual in the neighborhood—so said the neighbors. The cane was good, and the juice averaged 10 deg. all of the Early Amber; had good success in defeating and treated all the juice cold, 100 gallons at a time, often having not to exceed a gill of settlings to a batch. Boiled on a galvanized-iron Cook evaporator. After several mishaps, I got along very well, boiled to 228 degrees, and worked for 25c per gallon, cash on delivery.

Now for the other side. I followed the advice of Mr. Hedges' book and got a large No. 1 Victor mill, 750 pounds weight; thought that size would do to learn on. This mill was recommended to give 55 to 75 gallons of juice per hour, but it proved in practice, with all the different samples of cane, not to exceed 20 gallons per hour, where the feeder got his cane and took away the bagasse, the cane tied in bundles and stood near-by. Thirty gallons per hour was never exceeded, with two hands to feed and fast walking horses changed every hour. As a result, it proved an everlasting job to get a batch ready, and made the whole thing a drag, besides an injury to the juice by its long exposure to the air. Had this mill come up to its recommendations, I might have come out even. But as it was, after paying expenses, I had \$10 left to pay interest, wear and tear and my own labor; and I did five-eighths of the work. It is only fair to attribute a part of this failure to a want of experience. I used wood to evaporate and old hay to defecate.

In this neighborhood there are two mills from others. They both hugely fail to give the quantity of juice recommended. On the college farm, 20 miles from here, there is a Victor mill, weighing 1,300 pounds, that does not fill its recommendation.

By private correspondence from one of the largest works in Kansas, I learn that their mill does not grind as much as recommended.

Now, this looks like a huge mistake on the part of manufacturers and salesmen. They make a temporary gain, but it is soon over. "It's killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

Sorgo culture in this locality would have been double this year had the first efforts turned out better. It may be said, crowd your mills or buy larger ones. In my case, if crowding would help, I should have come out well. As to buying larger mills, it may be said our money is gone, and more, too; and if we had more, we don't know where to go and get what we bargain for. On many cold nights when I ought to have been in bed, have I been grinding and freezing and wishing that mill-makers and mill indorsements, in a future life, might go to a warmer place than I had. Fellow-workers, this thing has been ventilated on the sunny side. Let us have some of the other.

WM. YOUNG.

#### Palmyra, Neb., Feb. 24.

REMARKS.—Mr. Hedges says that he has never recommended a one-horse mill of any kind, not even a Victor. He has almost invariably recommended the No. 4 Victor, if any, and is not personally acquainted with the capacities of the different cane mills. Much consists in the proper adjustment of a mill as to the quantity of juice obtained. For instance, if the mill is set very

close, you can put in but very little cane. If made a little more open, and a larger quantity of cane put in, it will press equally dry and a larger quantity of juice will be obtained. The mill should always have capacity to exceed the capacity of the evaporator, as it is easier to stop the horses than it is the fire.

#### Early Orange.

COL. COLMAN: I wrote to you sometime last summer in regard to the success that I was having with your Early Orange cane, as it was with your advice that I was induced to try it. I also agreed to repeat to you my progress. I wrote to my friend Miller about some seed; he told me that I had better go slow on that variety, so I planted but a small piece in all. The first I planted was on April 23d; second piece was planted May 1st; third piece, May 10th. By the 1st of September the first piece planted was fully ripe, the second piece was ripe by the middle of September, and the last piece did not get ripe. I worked it up about the 20th of September. I had 19½ rods, from which I made 41 gallons of syrup, very nice and heavy, pronounced by all who examined it, a better article than from the Amber. It was the only syrup that granulated. Most all the farmers that saw it growing wish to get some of the seed.

I notice much is said of late about the Victor Mill and the Cook Evaporator. Both are grand old institutions and have done good service, like my old reaper; but I would not like to put it in the field to compete with some of the improved machines we have now. I have used three different kinds of evaporators—am now using a Cook improved, but I find I am far behind some of my neighbors in regard to evaporators. They can do more work and better, so much easier, saving one or two hands, that in order to keep sight of them, I am obliged to make a change, or I may as well give up the race. Then, too, I want a mill; one that can be said of it as can be said of few others—I have yet to hear of the first one being broken by use. That's the kind to feel safe with when you start in to commence your season's work, so you will not be bothered with the most trying things that can happen to a syrup maker right in the middle of his harvest—a broken mill. S. F. WYMAN.

Waseca, Minn.

#### Sugar Culture in Dominica, West Indies.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: As I have been kindly asked by Mr. I. A. Hedges to write for publication in your paper, a description of the Island of Dominica in cane growing and manufacturing for sugar, and as I was several years on an estate, I have therefore become very much interested in that line of business.

Dominica is very mountainous and hilly, soil rich and fertile. The products are sugar, lime juice, coffee, cocoa and fruits of all kinds, but sugar is the staple.

The canes are planted in square holes 4x5 and 5x5 feet, two plants in a hole; the ground is all dug up with the hoe, the country being so hilly that plows cannot be used. Great care is taken with the canes until they are large enough to take care of themselves, then when they come to a certain maturity, the dry leaves are stripped and laid on the top of the banks. This is to enable the sun to penetrate so as to ripen them. When they are ready for the mill, men are put in rows with bills to cut them down. The canes are cut close to the ground, and then the blades or tops, and lastly, the plant, which is the top part of the cane. No trash is allowed to be sent along with the canes to the mill. They are carted loose to the yard, where they are taken up by men who have a rope for tying them in bundles, and then taken to the mill table for the mill feeder to put in to the mill.

The general size of rollers on large estates is 30x72 inches. The mills are mostly all turned by water. The juice runs down to the bed of the mill, where there is a spout which conveys it to the clarifiers. When the clarifiers, or clarifier, is full it is then run into the grand filter, where it is tempered when full. This constitutes a strike. This quantity is worked up until it reaches the tache or prop. The liquor, while being worked up by means of ladles, is kept clean all the time, so by the time it reaches the prop it is perfectly clear. When there, and granulated, it is either taken out with ladles or a dipper, which is more preferable, as it takes all at once. It is run down a spout to the cooler. The coolers are 15 feet long, 10 feet wide and 24 inches deep; there are several of these coolers. A strike is put into each of them, until they are full; then the sugar is shoveled into tubs and taken to the curing house and put into hogheads, where it remains when full for about 14 days. They are then rammed, filled with dry sugar, headed and shipped.

The bagasse is the principal fuel, along with a little brushwood. This keeps the bagasse separated. Every estate has several bagasse houses. Towards the end of each crop good cane is taken to get the houses full, so as to

commence the next crop. We also sun a great deal of it, as it has more body than dry bagasse.

The distance from the feeding-hole of the furnace to the chimney is about 75 feet. The chimneys are very high, with a flue about 18 inches square. Some of the estates have a damper between the clarifier and the chimney. It is necessary, as it checks the grand from boiling.

The skimmings and all the washings are used up for making rum. Nearly every estate has a still. If they had not there would be a great waste. The ashes are carted to the field and put around the young canes.

I will conclude by saying that the sugar cane is a very wonderful plant. There is not a part of it that cannot be used in some way. Whatever it is that is not good for manufacturing, manure can be made from it by putting it in the cattle pens or on dung heaps. Very few people know how useful the cane is, and to find it out one must be a sugar planter.

I am glad to see the farmers have taken in hand the planting of sorgho for sugar, and it is my opinion that it will produce a very superior sugar, and will take well in the market. I hope the RURAL WORLD will continue to give all the aid it can to this growing industry. W. H. JOHNSON.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 21.

#### Proposed Improvements.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: I have made syrup three seasons, the last two growing the Amber cane. Last fall I made upwards of 1,000 gallons. I am more of a mechanic than a farmer, and last year I planned and made a cane mill (horizontal) and horse-power, gear, and the mill to revolve five times while the horse power revolved once, and found it to be a decidedly good thing.

This year I mean to get a steam evaporator. Now, what I want to say is this: I have a cane mill planned out in my mind that I am confident would be in advance of anything I have ever seen or heard of, in several particulars, and if the association will offer sufficient inducement and furnish the necessary facilities for making syrup and practically testing cane mills at the next St. Louis fair, I will furnish a mill for competition.

There are two features about the mill I have in my mind, that would, I think, be patentable, but I do not propose to take out patents, no matter how great the improvements may be over mills now in use. All I want is a moderate and reasonable compensation for the improvements, provided there are such improvements over present plans of operation.

I suppose your fair will come off about the proper time to have ripe cane to work up, and I think it would add materially to the interest of the occasion to have a cane mill and evaporator in operation. Yours, &c., H. E. CARVER.

Marion, Iowa.

#### Bagasse Furnace.—A Defense.

COL. COLMAN: Owing to the intrinsic value of the crushed cane stalks furnishing ready and at hand the greater part of an otherwise costly and inferior fuel for an industry of such magnitude, we cannot afford a wrong conclusion. The bagasse is now consigned to its part in the sorgho drama.

Why should we be at the expense of constructing a bagasse furnace? The answer is, to save expense. We planted cane 4x4 feet because our grandfathers planted corn that way. Shall we now burn bagasse in wood furnaces because our fathers used such for wood? We can grow cane 4x4 feet, though it is not economy to do so; but the ordinary furnace is not nearly half-way adapted to the burning of bagasse, which is too quick for so slow a furnace. Throw a fork full of fresh bagasse into any single furnace, and the fanning of the door, coupled with the chill from the fuel, will send a cold wave over a very high heat. Again, if the fuel is dry, it will flash.

Had Mr. Leonard told the machinist that he didn't see the use of any unnecessary expense in providing a feed-board for a thrashing machine, we imagine the reply would have been a vacant look.

The feed-shelf to a bagasse furnace is of greater importance. The constant shuffle is, however, unnecessary, since the fiery tongues reach after the feed. Prof. Culbertson will agree that the quicker and more direct the bagasse can be taken to the furnace, the less the labor required.

If one wing furnishes sufficient heat when the fuel is tempered, it certainly follows that less curing is required with the use of two wings. One horse may draw a plow, but two, with a reserve force, insures a more even motion.

If you would cope with fresh bagasse yet more successfully, insert a "close grate" beneath each open wing grate, and you are thus provided with a tempering heat, which for the most part is self-adjusting, and can be made to temper the fresh bagasse to a nicety. The fresh bagasse drives the blaze, while the tempered draws it. The green is also free from dust.

As to the heating of the pan, we claim the reverse of Prof. C's experience. The pan should not extend over the shelf, though it should be covered. Subject bagasse to heat under confinement, and the gas will explode.

Mr. C. M. Schwarz says: "Eighty pounds of steam kept up easily with the bagasse coming from the mill, using about half the bagasse. Our boilers were not placed in the right position for two wings, which I regret much now."

Hon. Seth H. Kenney, of Minnesota, will set up a bagasse furnace in the face of prepared wood at one or two dollars per cord.

We welcome agitation, pro or con. O. W. HAWK.

### Agricultural.

#### Will it Pay to Raise Clover Seed?

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: As the question of enriching our lands and of raising, saving and thrashing clover seed in the states of Illinois and Missouri is important, I will give our experience and ask W. P.—your correspondent of the 17th ult.—a few questions for the benefit of farmers generally.

A few years ago our people raised clover seed, cut the second crop, stacked and threshed it, which yielded ordinarily from 1 to 2 bushels per acre—if hulled out before the wet season began. The machines then used were the rasp hullers, known as the "Birdsells," and the other makes that Mr. W. P. refers to. In case a wet season came upon the stacks before they were hulled, and the season remained wet like this winter has been, hundreds and thousands of bushels were left in the stacks to rot down and waste, which was a loss of hundreds and thousands of dollars to working farmers. Last fall some of the thrashermen of this and adjoining counties procured a clover huller from Maryland, I think in Hagerstown. It is called the "Victor Double Huller Clover Machine." It has two hulling cylinders, the upper one hulls the seed, moults and tough clover, and the lower one finishes it up. The seed runs out of the side of the machine fit to sow. Wet stacks of clover with snow and rain upon them have been run through these machines this winter in our vicinity, and the seed extracted clean therefrom, to the surprise of many of our farmers.

The yield per acre has been from 4 to 6 bushels, and we are beginning to think that one cause for our not raising more seed per acre has been that we have never had a machine that got out the seed as clean as this "Victor," and we have all concluded to save our second crop of clover hereafter, and raise our own seed at least, and have some to sell to our farmers who are (as yet) ignorant of the profits and benefits derived from this branch of farming. I think that the different granges throughout the country can be set up at this time, and discuss the best method of raising, saving and thrashing clover seed.

1st. Now, what time in the year is the best to sow clover seed?

2d. What kind of seed is best to sow, the small or large clover?

3d. How many bushels do you consider an average crop per acre?

4th. At what stage of the clover should the first crop be cut?

5th. At what stage of the clover should the second crop be cut?

Please answer the above for the benefit of the farming public. E. C. ROGGINS.

Anna, Ill.

#### Immigrants to Missouri.

COL. COLMAN: In an article headed "Immigration to Missouri," in the RURAL WORLD, Mr. Jacob Funck, of Fairfield, Iowa, states as a fact that Missourians are opposed to immigration from northern States, &c., and that such immigrants would be mistreated if they should settle in Missouri. Now, I must say the gentleman has drawn upon his own imagination for such statements. It is true, the majority of our older residents are southern born, but a great many are, also, of northern descent, and foreigners, and if any of these latter have had any reason for complaints of being persecuted, either socially or politically, I have failed to observe it, though I am an old resident here, and not from the south. If the gentleman wishes to inform himself in this matter, I can refer him to a former resident of his own town, Fairfield, and perhaps a personal acquaintance; now, and for five or six years past, a resident of Missouri, and politically a republican, who has been surrounded here by democrats almost entirely for several years. I refer to Captain J. M. Woods, now residing at O'Fallon St. Co., Mo., formerly of Osage Co.

During the excitement of a heated political campaign, there is frequently engendered a feeling of bitterness, particularly among the more ignorant classes of people. Will the good gentleman say such is not the case in his own State? My experience, during a short residence there, assures me that such is the case.

As to northern people not being allowed to speak and vote as to them seems best; to make such a statement is sheer nonsense. Is the gentleman aware that we of Missouri are nearer equally divided politically than the people of his own State, and that a number of counties

are so closely divided that parties are nearly equal, and in quite a number the republicans have considerable majority? But enough of this; I would advise persons desiring to come to Missouri to inform themselves either through personal friends residing here or by making us a preliminary visit and then judge for themselves.

I am sorry that such feelings, as evinced by Mr. Funck, still exist outside this State, but there is no use in arguing to convince them of their error, when they will not try to learn the facts. JOHN H. DIERICKS.

Osage Co., Mo.

#### An Experiment for Agricultural Colleges.

COL. COLMAN: In order to settle the question authoritatively, and as soon as possible, "What is the length of the life of a potato?"

I will donate to all agricultural colleges triplicates of my seedling potato, Triumph, subject to the following experiments and conditions:

1st Experiment.—One whole potato to be planted in good, rich, common soil of the locality, to receive ordinary field cultivation during the first year; not to be dug, but to be left where they grew over winter; in the north covered with a sufficiency of straw or litter to keep out the frost; in the south, no covering will be necessary; in the spring the litter to be removed to surface of the ground, but no cultivation given, and so continue from year to year as long as they live, the point being to ascertain how long they will live and contend with the weeds of the locality.

2d Experiment.—One whole potato to be planted, as in preceding experiment, in every particular till following spring, then the weeds to be removed by hand pulling, no cultivation given, and so continued as long as they live; the point being to ascertain how long they will live with undisturbed possession of the ground. In this experiment, if they get crowded in a year or two, a portion may be removed to give room to grow.

3d Experiment.—One potato to be cut in six or more eyes, according to custom of locality, and given fair common cultivation, saved and treated in the ordinary manner of the locality.

4th Condition.—That a report be sent each year for publication to Colman's RURAL WORLD, St. Louis, of the actual results at regular digging time.

This offer is open to all agricultural colleges in America, Europe or other countries, until one bushel is exhausted. There is only one and a half bushels in existence, except the product of one potato presented to our college in the fall of 1879.

The following is a condensed history. It will be found more fully in back numbers of Colman's RURAL WORLD: Triumph is a seedling of 1879 that produced nine pounds perfect potatoes, 50 in number, 50 in all, 6 being less than marbles and were destroyed. It also produced perfect seed balls that vegetated in 1880. I believe every seed given, and I got 109 plants. The other was White Neshannock, planted in the spring of 1877; did not bear seed balls; was left in the ground, where it grew during the winter of 1877-78, without protection; in 1878, was hoed two or three times, produced seed balls, which produced the Triumph.

They will keep good until the middle of May, so that there is plenty of time for responses from Europe. They will be mailed on receipt of response. M. McKENZIE.

Centerville, Reynolds Co., Mo., Jan. 29.

P. S. The importance of this, if faithfully carried out, cannot be over-estimated in regard to the food supply of millions. Although the writer was but a boy during the potato famine of 1847, he believed then as now, that that sacrifice of wealth, health and life was due to the forgetfulness or lack of knowledge of this one fact. The advantages are, 1st, an authentic date of germination; 2d, a perfect plant; 3d, wide observation; 4th, no red tape. M. McK.

#### Correspondence.

COL. COLMAN: The clock you sent me as a premium was received in December last in good order, was immediately set to running, and has kept correct time up to date. Gillespie, Ills., Feb. 23d. WM. HOLME.

The clock and scales came all right. Mrs. C. and all who have seen them pronounce them treasures for any house-keeper. I would like to have a few more papers for distribution if you can spare them. Do I get a chance in your drawing for each subscriber I send, or does each subscriber get the chance? I have been under the impression I was the one who got it. Yours, &c. Hall Co., Mo. T. N. C.

REPLY.—Glad to know you like the premiums. Each subscriber has one chance in the premium drawing, not the agent sending others' names. Of course the agent, if a subscriber, has one chance.

COL. COLMAN: Please make inquiry through your valuable paper, the RURAL WORLD, of your many readers, who has a draft stallion of the Norman Percheron stock to let out on shares? None but the best wanted. Weight not less than fourteen hundred pounds. Any person having such a horse, please address MARK L. BROWN, New Hartford, Pike Co., Mo.

COL. COLMAN: Will some reader of the RURAL WORLD please answer the following questions: 1st, Will spring rye do well in this latitude? If so, how early can it be sown for a hog pasture? 2d, What kind of peas do farmers plant for a full crop? Is it the common black-eyed pea? Can I plant them early and feed them off in time to raise another crop the same season? W.

COL. COLMAN: Can you or some of your subscribers tell me where I can get a "setter pup," without paying such high prices as the kennels exact; also, a brace of fox-hound puppies? Please answer, and confer a favor upon a subscriber. C. A. GALLAGHER.

COL. COLMAN: The southern part of Howell Co., Mo., is a good location for sheep farms; plenty of water, several thousands acres of government land, cheap farms, an everlasting range for miles. The land never can be settled for any other purpose than range. C. T. LUDWIG, M. D.

COL. COLMAN: The premium clock received. We are much pleased with its appearance. It has commenced business apparently in earnest. I have a little boy, six years old, who named himself after you at the age of three years. He takes a great interest in you. Your paper and the clock are his. When I come home from the office he meets me and takes your paper from among the rest, looks at the pictures, reads what he can and carefully puts it away. MONROE CO., MO. W. N. ELLIOTT.

COL. COLMAN: You will pardon me for not acknowledging the receipt of the premium scales, which came promptly to hand. They are not only nice and handy, but correct, and are worth all they cost me. In my opinion they would be useful to any family. PIKE CO., MO. J. T. MATSON.

DEAR SIR: What is the best way and time to exterminate sumac, black locust and osage hedge? An answer through your columns would oblige yours, &c. CHAS. W. MARSTON.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: Can any of your readers recommend a work or works, or can they give me any information in regard to the castration of colts or spaying of swine? Vermillionville, Ills. GEO. F. PALMER.

COL. COLMAN: I have been reading your valuable paper for the past year, my brother—the late R. M. Curtis—being a subscriber. It is so well adapted to my business that I can hardly get along without it. Would it be too much trouble for you, at some future time, to tell me through your valuable paper, how to build a house to keep sweet potatoes through winter; also, how they should be put up and managed during winter? Yours, Montrose, Lae Co., Iowa. C. H. CURTIS.

COL. COLMAN: Will some of the readers of the RURAL WORLD tell me what they know of the draft horse known as the Suffolk Punch? We have been breeding to one and would like to know some of its characteristics. A Reader. JACKSONVILLE, MISSOURI.

REMARKS.—Please describe the Suffolk Punch horse you have been breeding to. Who bred him?

COL. COLMAN: F. L. Bixler, formerly of St. Louis, and I are thinking of engaging in the sheep business. Mr. B. has at present 150 head. We have 320 acres of land, about 200 of which is good horse ground. Our nearest neighbor would be 6 miles distant. We have as good a range as there is in southern Missouri, and an abundance of good pure water. What we want to know of you is, do you think we could get sheep on the shares? If we thought we could we would go to work and put up shelter and make other necessary preparations. We have about 20 acres of land that will do for millet. We can put up all the wild hay we want. We have about 40 acres of new ground that we could get ready for corn. We have a good team, wagon, harness and everything needed in that line. We are not able to make the preparations and stock the ranch. We feel satisfied we can do well if we can get the sheep. Preferring to risk your judgment to that of any one else, we concluded to consult you. Please tell us what you think about it, and if you know any person who would be likely to furnish as desired give us the address and we will correspond with him. J. J. KINTZ.

Van Buren, Carter Co., Mo. P. S. Mr. Bixler has had considerable experience in the business. J. J. K.

REMARKS.—We do not know of any one having sheep to let. If any one has he can address you. Get what native sheep you can in your section and procure thoroughbred bucks, and improve your flock in that way.

COL. COLMAN: No intelligent farmer, after a careful perusal of the RURAL WORLD, can afford to do without it, from the fact it is the cheapest, most able and best agricultural journal that is published for the great west and south. The price being so low, it is within the reach of all. Its pages have always been filled with the latest and choicest matter for the toiling farmer. It also gives one grand feature that no other journal of its class has ever given, i. e., the sorgho department, which interest alone is of incalculable value to all farmers, as the sorgho interest will, at no distant day, grow into very large proportions, from the fact that the sorgho sweet is very much cheaper, and is now the only safe sweet the people can use, as all other sweet is adulterated in such a manner it is not safe to use in our families. A friend of mine stated to me a few days ago that he had brought into his family a short time ago, a sample of one of the best brands of sirup, and when some of the sirup had dropped on the children's clothing, while they were eating, in a few days the sirup had eaten holes in the garments. Now, if fine brands of sirup will eat holes in our clothing, what will it do for our stomachs? Comment is unnecessary. Our section, like all other localities, has had its share of the cold weather, the mercury having registered at my place as low as 9 degrees below zero one morning, otherwise clear and without snow. The farmers are delivering a large amount of corn and fat hogs on the market here, at fair prices, and stock of all kinds seem to be doing well. W. H. ANDERSON. Cloud Co., Kas, Dec. 16th, 1880.











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Entered at the postoffice at St. Louis and authorized for transportation through the mails at second-class rates.

Advices from various sections in Arkansas indicate that, so far, nearly half the peach buds are alive and promising. In the valleys or low lands very few buds escaped.

Many inquiries have been made as to where Cahoon's broadcast seed sower could be obtained. It is advertised in this paper by the L. M. Rumsey Manfg. Co., St. Louis, Mo. Send for a circular. It will tell you all about it.

The advertisement of Jas. E. White, breeder of Plymouth Rock and Houdan fowls, will be found in this paper. Capt. White is one of our most painstaking breeders, and has been successful in capturing first premiums at a large number of exhibitions. Send to him for his circulars.

In regard to the peach crop, and prospects in southern Illinois, H. R. Buckingham, Esq., of Alto Pass, wishes to revise his opinion as expressed in these columns a few weeks ago. Mr. B. examined a number of the peach buds recently on his premises and also in adjoining orchards, and finds a large number of the buds all right. If no disaster falls later fully half a crop is looked for.

The receipts of potatoes in this market at present range from 10 to 30 cars per day, and, strange to say, three-fourths of this amount come to us from New York state—mainly from the vicinity of Buffalo. The prices prevailing here are very high, and St. Louis appears to be the most profitable market at present for the New Yorkers. The "Ohio Early" is a variety that is much sought for at present—several cars of this variety received lately sold as high as \$1.50 per bushel, all for planting or seeding purposes.

Farmers are advancing in intelligence and social position. They have always held a secondary position, and do, at this time, even in this country. Still they are far better off than the farmers of the old world. There they are not allowed to sit at the same table or associate in a social sense with the nobility or aristocracy. Here they should be the nobility, if such class existed, for they are the foundation of our national superstructure. Other classes would soon "play out" were it not for the fresh, vigorous blood of the "country-cousins" that is constantly flowing into them. Those who are standing at the top of professions to-day are country born. The brains of the farming class are all right. All they need is culture, general culture. When that is given the farming profession will stand higher, and exert more power and influence than all other professions combined—for they outnumber them all.

France, Germany, Austria, Italy and other countries, all in succession, have had their say about excluding American meats from their markets. France is the last country that has placed an embargo on the hog product of America, because of the quality or unsound condition of some of the meat. Very strange why the United States have not made war on any of the products or commodities coming to us from over the sea. Such is the disposition of the American people to worship anything that is imported they never hesitate to buy such goods even at extravagant prices without examining their claims or merits. In the matter of adulteration we are certainly far behind the European shippers and dealers. It is about time the American receivers and consumers looked into the merits of such expensive goods. There is a wide field, and an unexplored one, to examine to see to what adulteration and deception is practiced. We would suggest that these examinations begin on the extensive wine and liquor list.

We hope that more of our western farmers will try the virtues of this southern pea. If planted as soon as the ground is warm enough for corn planting they will mature in this latitude, as we have on several occasions demonstrated, in our own experience. Indeed when planted along in the rows of corn one way we have had the ground completely covered with the vines filled with peas. Cattle and sheep are not only fond of the peas but of the vines also and hogs will fatten, if turned in the pea field of sufficient dimensions. By planting in the corn one way, so as to allow of cultivation, two crops are obtained and neither seems to be diminished by the presence of the other. But one of the great virtues of this

pea is that it is one of the best renovators of worn-out soil that we have—not inferior to clover in that respect. Where it has been used in Maryland and Virginia as a renovator on the worn-out wheat lands the average of wheat has been increased from five or six bushels to twenty-five or thirty bushels per acre in a few years. We will make efforts to have some of our seedsmen in St. Louis keep this pea for western farmers. We are sure they will be pleased with it.

## THE LESSON OF THE HOUR.

The young men who embarked in business ten or a dozen years ago, have had to work hard, and exercise the most unceasing economy in order to meet expenses. Even the most energetic, hopeful and persevering have done well if they have come out with an even balance sheet. In whatever branch of business attempted, they have had to face falling markets and steadily lowering prices. Since the culmination of the war prices in 1868-70, it has been nothing but "hard hoeing," and rough sledding. Whatever goods were handled, the prices went down; it was ruinous to "hold over" for better times—each season finding prices yet lower than the previous. Eager, constant and pressing competition, compelled them to mark down to the lowest farthing—often far below cost. There was no accumulation to fall back upon to make up the deficit. Trouble came; the financial storm swept over the country, and firm after firm went down before the panic; nothing but heavy loss to all—utter ruin to many. Work never so hard, save never so carefully, it was with the utmost difficulty that anyone kept the expenses inside of the income.

How different their experience to that attending the business men of ten or a dozen years earlier! Then everything had an upward tendency. Nothing was purchased that did not bring enormous profits. When the war came, every business man seemed possessed with the touch of a Midas. There was no losing. Colossal fortunes were made in a day. Men became insane with greed and speculative schemes. There were oil princes and bonanza kings, whose wild extravagances set one's head to spinning, even to remember. Luxuries and prodigalities were common to all. Whims were gratified, expensive tastes indulged, fast horses, fine carriages, expensive wines, costly decorations, extravagant entertainments, princely establishments, reckless expenditures and a general disregard for cost, characterized the times. They kept generally within their enormous incomes—holding their thousands as lightly as they were won. Men grew intoxicated with all this success, wanted more and risked all; the storm of ruin caught and left them, stranded and shipwrecked on the breakers of their own mad making. To have thus fallen from such a height, hurled at once to a depth of poverty so great, and compelled to exercise the rugged virtue of self-denial, and the most uncompromising economy, must have been a terribly severe lesson to those undisciplined magnates.

But the business men of to-day have had from the start to face falling markets, losses and hard times. Severe and relentless competition crowds them on every hand. The constant war for the survival of the fittest has taught them that it is no child's play—no easy road. It has compelled economy on every line—every inch of ground. Personal expenses have been rigidly cut down, luxuries denied, indulgences prohibited, necessities, even in the family, often questioned; every tendency to leakage and wastage has been closely inspected and obstinately resisted, upon the principle that a "penny saved is a penny earned." The practice of making the most of everything has become fashionable and general; personal inconvenience and extra individual labor has not been spared, and saving methods have been numerous contrived. The ruinous credit system has been reduced, in most cases, to a strictly cash basis, or at best, to a very limited time. It has become simply a system of "cash for value received."

This lesson of frugality and economy has been of immense value to the present generation. We do not say that all this struggle and hardship, loss and self-denial which men have had to endure through the past decade has been productive of the best or happiest results; but we do claim that, in so far as men have abandoned the old habits of reckless expenditure, extravagance and waste, cultivating instead the virtues of economy, care and simplicity, this generation of business men are better off than the previous one, and in a way to become better citizens, and attain to a more lasting competency. The hot, feverish period of wild, speculative excitement, which usurped the place of sound business tact and cool judgment during and following the war, has now passed away, leaving its lesson plainly written; and the return of prosperity will find men looking after the cents, where dollars have been little regarded. This manner of living will include comfort rather than display. They will be satisfied with smaller profits; will work harder, and spend less lavishly—but they will have money to jingle in their pockets.

This experience was perhaps a need-

ed lesson to enable men who had habitually scattered thousands to be content with hundreds. For such a life, the younger generation of business men has been fitted by the fierce war with hard times; and moderate prosperity, close profits, and the balance on the right side of the accounts, will be a very satisfactory result to many who, but for this discipline, would never have been willing to give up speculation short of colossal profits or irretrievable ruin.

## Agricultural Implements.

A meeting of southern Illinois dealers in agricultural implements was held recently at the Laclede Hotel. The meeting was called to order by Mr. J. H. Hamilton, and the same gentleman also explained the object of the gathering. The main object was to perfect the organization of the Agricultural Implement Dealers' Association of Southern Illinois, formed at Marietta, Ills., several months ago.

On motion of Mr. D. W. Andrews, Mr. Hamilton was elected chairman. The constitution and by-laws adopted at the Marietta meeting were read by Mr. Hamilton.

The roll of membership was called, showing the following gentlemen present: C. E. Norcott, Bunker Hill; D. W. Andrews, Centralia; M. E. Richards, Carlisle; F. M. Eckert, Vandalia; G. A. Willey, Belleville; F. Koth, Venice; G. Roth, Highland; Julius Winkler, Summerfield; S. T. McKelvey, Nashville; E. Pauch, Summerfield; S. A. Shafer, Assumption; Bode & Jobusch, Waterloo; Geo. Olendorf, Waterloo; Jas. H. Hamilton, Marietta; R. J. Rankin, Sparta, and Oscar O'Neil of Waterloo.

The following gentlemen were elected officers of the association for the ensuing year: Jas. H. Hamilton, president; F. M. Eckert, treasurer; D. W. Andrews, secretary.

Messrs. Andrews, Roth, Eckert, Norcott and Pauch were appointed a committee to establish prices for twine and wire for agricultural machines. The committee afterwards submitted a report, and the report was adopted. Speeches were made by several gentlemen in regard to the business of selling agricultural implements. All regarded an organization of the dealers profitable to the business, beneficial not only to the dealers themselves, but also to their patrons, the farmers of southern Illinois. The organization would be beneficial to the dealers also in a social way. They should meet periodically, not only for business purposes, but also for social reasons, and it would be well if they gave a banquet at their annual meeting every year.

The association adjourned to meet at the Laclede Hotel again March 18.

## Dog Law Wanted.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: Every man in this State is deeply interested, either directly or indirectly, in a dog-law.

It is a remarkable fact that those who would be the most benefited by the enactment of such a law are those possessing the greatest number of sheep-killing curs.

Push the matter until dogs become fewer in number and sheep can be raised in any and all sections of this State, without molestation from that source.

Query: Why is it considered necessary to shorten the caudal extremities of sheep? Nature never intended it, and it is a great risk.

Again: Where, and at what price can sheep tags be procured? Respectfully,

Brownsville, Mo.

## AMUSEMENTS.

At the Olympic Theatre the engagement of the little favorite, Lotta, continues and the houses are crowded every performance. On Monday next the eminent American comedian, Joe Jefferson, will begin his first engagement in St. Louis for several years. The opportunity to see this really great actor should not be neglected.

At the Grand Opera House the superb performances of the Corinne Merry-makers are attracting much attention. Next week the attraction will be Baker and Farron in their new play of "The Emigrants."

At Pope's Theatre that great favorite Oliver Don Byron is drawing enormous crowds, and his popularity does not seem to decrease. Indeed, his new play, "10,000 Miles Away," is one of the best he has ever presented. Next week Nell Burgess, the original "Widow Bedott," will begin an engagement in that quaint and humorous character.

## Snow in Minnesota.

The Owatonna Free Press chronicles some of the incidents of the late storm in Steel county as follows:

In the country a terrible state of affairs existed. In many cases the hogs and stock of the farmers were so snowed under as to be in imminent danger of perishing for want of food and water. On the farm of Joseph Kabat, Esq., who lives four miles southeast of town, they were compelled to cut another hole into the stable in order to feed and water their cattle and horses. It was simply impossible during the storm to dig the snow away so as to get in at the door. The well was snowed over to the depth of over twelve feet, and they were compelled to melt snow in order to give a little to their stock. It took two days to shovel out their hogs, but happily none of them died from their fast exposure. At P. Junker's the snow drift was higher than the ridge of the stable, which is over twenty-four feet high, and it was necessary to shovel the snow off the roof for fear of the weight of the snow.

Mr. William Thompson, of Meriden, allowed some of his cattle to feed around a straw stack, and several of these were snowed in and had to be dug out. One two-year-old steer was snowed under eight feet, and when dug out seemed to be lively, but after fifteen minutes of fresh air, he sickened and died. Mr. T. had about one hundred and fifty hens snowed under several feet. He, with great energy, dug them out in hopes of saving them alive, but found half of them dead. The survivors seem as lively now as if they had never been buried beneath the snow.

Plants grown in the house are best kept in good shape by pinching the ends of those shoots that grow too vigorously. This is much better than allowing new shoots to grow until they need support and cutting them back. In taking up plants from the garden it is best to cut back at least one-half, and after putting in good soil, water at once and put in a cool, shady place.

## The Shepherd.

Edited by R. M. Bell, of Brighton, Missouri, to whom all matter relating to this department should be addressed.

## Where Shall We Raise Sheep?

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: I notice in your issue of the 13th ult. an article headed: "Where shall we raise sheep?" To this I address myself, and feel warranted in saying Mississippi offers as many advantages for sheep husbandry as any portion of the United States, and will here set forth some of them, as per your interrogatories:

1st. You inquire for cheap land. Sheepmen and their families, as to the health of both, no place is better. As to cost of land, that ranges from 10 cents to \$15 per acre, as per quality of soil, accessibility to transportation and wild state. If State or government land, to describe this section will say, first: We have two railroads, about fifty miles apart, passing from north to south through the State. Between them is what is termed the pine belt, forming in the main, ridges of broken land, although many streams derive their source in these hills, and pass to the Mississippi river on the west, the Bigbee on the east and Gulf on the south. Many elegant cotton farms are to be found on these streams and their small tributaries; also some elegant table and undulating lands are interspersed among these hills. The most of which, however, once fair land for agricultural purposes and in cultivation, is now abandoned from its exhaustion. Also many farms on streams once elegant cotton land, producing annually a bale of cotton per acre, are also abandoned—caused by deposits of sand and mud filling up some and causing thereby a general overflow of fields and bottoms of uncleared land, thereby killing all the timber, except a few of the water family, such as gum, willow, live oak, cottonwood, sycamore, &c. On most of such abandoned streams is now as fine summer grazing on bermuda grass as the world affords, and that when given a start above, distributes itself below; and when once started at a spot in the sun, spreads rapidly from its rootlets at every joint; and they generally, two to three inches apart at each joint, put up spires of sweet nutritious grass for any stock, especially the sheep; and when not grazed will make a meadow for cutting two and three crops per annum of hay, better than any other known and as abundantly, as it is a perfect mat of roots, shooting up thick spires that vary in height as per strength of soil, from eight to twenty inches high. The roots of the bermuda are equally as nutritious as tops. The overflow rarely ever embeds the roots too low to prevent shooting up the spires, and really seems to impart vigor in growth. Thus can be claimed an excellence for this grass, not possessed by any other such as, lucerne, alfalfa, &c. To withstand mud and sand, &c. to master all other grasses, weeds, &c., to make the very best grazing pastures and the very best meadows. I add, this grass does not grow vigorously in the shade, but will on the poorest land, upland or lowland. Then we have another adventurer in the past ten or twelve years, which is now to be found generally through north Mississippi, and which we call Lespedeza Japan, or yellow clover. This new arrival certainly has merits in some respects equal to the bermuda, and that as a grazer, and its growing and thriving equally as well on poor as rich soil, it is not uncommon to find it growing to perfection on gullies and on roadsides several feet deep in the very poorest spots. Hundreds of old fields once worthless as to soil for cultivation, are now carpeted in the summer with this clover. It propagates itself both by seeds and at joints like the bermuda. As to mastery of the two, it is yet to be decided. Both are tough to deal with; but as between the two for man to destroy, the Lespedeza is the easiest to manage, as it has no horizontal roots under the surface, and can be easily killed by breaking up the land an inch or two deep. But for its grazing qualities for sheep or cattle, it can be classed about equal to the bermuda. Will not I think make as good meadows, although it is often seen where protected, a foot or more high. As to other grasses and clovers, they also can be grown here with a little attention and care, and with them, corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, rice, sorghum, sweet and Irish potatoes, cotton and all vegetables, on land to be found in the midst of these pine ridges and adjacent to overflowed bottoms, in paying quantity. That is to say, from twenty to fifty bushels of the six former, and as many gallons of the seventh as anywhere. Potatoes—equal to any place for the sweet, and very good for the Irish. Cotton from 600 to 1000 pounds in the seed, and vegetables just as labor and attention given. The cotton seed, crude or in gins, makes the very cheapest food for sheep, and none better—far superior to hay of any kind and easily fed. Crude seed can always be purchased for less than 10 cents per bushel of 33½ pounds, the average price about 7 cents. I feel warranted in saying the cost to winter sheep will not exceed 50 cents, including labor, shelter, &c., at present time; but when it is gone into properly for care and attention with large herds, and then good meadows and other crops as named made to support other stock, and an income from cotton and other surplus crops as a diversity in time for money incomes, can be kept at 25 cents per head. In view of these facts, as I now know near me illustrated, Mississippi is as inviting to sheep husbandry as anywhere in the northern States, and I have so reported to the Agricultural Department at Washington, my views and investigations. Many of our citizens the past year or two have commenced raising sheep, and numbers are at present preparing to do so. But here I fear many failures, not because the country is not adapted but because cotton will grow, as we in the main have been educated in its rows, in the gin, on the roads and in the market, which disqualifies us for any departures. I fear our want of patience and attention in growing. We somehow neglect as a people everything else but the absorbing article of cotton. I have said and still do, that the famous blue grass region of Kentucky is not superior to this country for any kind of stock growing. There they have, it is true, the finest of grass. Here we have just as good in the bermuda, that works

its own way, shoving out blue grass—yes, all grasses, weeds and briars. Here land is not worth one-fourth as much, just as healthy, as good churches, schools, transportation, &c., as they have, and as to sheep, I am satisfied we have decidedly the advantage. Just the one difference: There the minds of men run in the stock line, and to it is given the attention. Here the minds run in the cotton line, and stock gets no attention. How often horses and mules have no stables! Certainly no other stock has a covering. As to a sheep shed, I dare say not one in the State. Indeed, often not much wanted in the northern portion, and never in the south. But they do need herding, attention for change of range, salting and depredations from dogs. Here they get none of these—simply turned out to roam at will in the summer in winter turn them and cows into fields to make their own living. I have a neighbor with 250 head of common sheep, which he feeds in winter in open lots without shelter, mainly cotton seed. The surplus seed from his grown cotton crops, annually furnishes winter food for his sheep. He has very limited pasturage in summer—160 acres of my old field, badly worn-out but now thick set with Lespedeza, gives him fully half his pasturage—but he does give more attention to herding, &c., than any one I know of, and I dare say that is done as much to enrich his land as for good of sheep. He sells lambs at \$2 each, wool at 30 to 40 cents per pound. This man lives in the midst of farms, with but little range and that not fostered, as hundreds of cattle of the neighborhood also roam on same land with his sheep. His sheep are fat and cattle keep in fair order. Now, suppose a ranch of three or more thousand sheep be located adjacent to or in this country for every five miles square of territory, and it will bear it, for 60 miles wide and 300 long, all other crops can be grown in same, and this quantity of sheep will feed ample summer pasturage without cost. Then estimate the cost of land at \$3 per acre, the average for tillage and pasturage. Then estimate the income on money invested, and I dare say, its equal cannot be found in the world. As stated, wild both State and government lands can be had at nominal figures, or they could remain in open neighbor without purchase; but I allude to the whole belt, in short the State, except the prairies on the east and Mississippi bottom on the west proper. As all our farms are fast washing away and valleys filling up, annually more and more is abandoned, until soon, and that in the near future, all will be surrendered to Lespedeza, &c., except some choice table spots and high valleys for cultivation. Then I claim there will be far more money made here than now—raising cotton as now done almost as an exclusive crop—in a mixed husbandry. Were I deemed worthy to give advice to seekers of homes, combining at present all these requisites, I would select locations in what we call oak table lands, adjoining the pine belt or near the streams on good uplands, to cultivate. There good society, churches, schools, &c., are to be found all over the State. Such locations at present combine all that is desirable, and as cotton raisers become the more and more dissatisfied with their incomes, they will want to sell their worn lands at low prices that will furnish an undoubtedly superior pasturage for all stock, but especially sheep.

I now come to your second interrogatory, which has in the main been answered. As to fires, drought or wet seasons, they never occur here. Fair crops are made with limited cultivation, and slovenly in most cases at that—anything like good tillage will always insure an independence aside from floods. Now as to your third query. Man can live here in peace, quiet and safety, equal to any place on the globe, and as to neighbors can make them altogether congenial, as to station and intercourse wanted, as to taste. As to your fourth query. All sorts here in profusion, except sheep owners. But other good citizens thickly populate this country, more so now than will in sheep raising, as it requires more space for a larger and a successful business. 5th. No nomadic isolations will or can ever occur here to drive out Christian families or for families to drive out flocks, both can and will find homes here. One may not have as many sheep or as many acres, yet may make as good interest on his investments, be as good a Christian, scholar and gentleman, as if he owned his thousands of each. Your 6th, as to fruit and flowers, they, as I can show, grow to perfection in all kinds, even most of the tropical fruits. And as to a sheepman being molested under his vine and fig tree, we think his home would never be invaded by the vicious, at least as far from it as any location in either of the States. It may be, however, that dogs might invade the unherded sheep at night, or in the day, without a herder. To beget hot blood, by sheep owner killing the dog. But if the owner of sheep attends to his flocks, a sheep killing dog does him no harm. As to your 7th. Can only reiterate as in No. 1. The varied adaptations, quality of soil for a mixed business and proximity to transportation. Some tracts can be had for \$3, \$4, \$5 and up to \$10 or \$15 per acre, as per quality and improvements. Then, again, at other places from 10 cents to \$3 per acre. Thus you see a man can measure his pile, in quantity, quality, location, &c. He can compare prices here with those of Illinois and Missouri. A seeker of a home, and at the same time an opening to grow sheep alone, cannot do any better as to adaptations than this country offers; and when desired with its agricultural advantages, it has no equal for so small an outlay of money with such assured results. I have hastily jotted these items of facts down, and forward to you, subject to your notice—for or against—that Mississippi may be known not alone qualified to grow cotton but to raise sheep and all other stock, and with them nearly every other article wanted for man or beast. The man of will, industry, enterprise and a partial divorce at least from cotton, will develop this State in a paying industrial pursuit. I am familiar with the whole State, and know whereof I speak, and can now point out as I think extra eligible locations, for large or small farms and ranches combined, at low prices for land, and in places thousands of acres adjoining or near by, that nev-

er can be used for profit to cultivate, but elegant for sheep, that can be had for a trifle. So send on your sheep and wool growers. A. Q. WITHERS.

Holly Springs, Miss.

## Dogs as Sheep Protectors.

In many portions of this country it seems to be impossible to render the keeping of sheep profitable on account of the ravages of the dogs. Land is cheap and both wool and mutton high, but the losses by the dogs and the expense of protecting sheep from them consumes all the profits. In various parts of South America dogs are relied on to protect sheep, not only from the attacks of wild beasts but from the worthless dogs that range over the country. Darwin states that the shepherd dogs kept there are as much attached to the sheep as most dogs are to their masters. They are brought up with the flocks and have no other companionship. The puppies are taught to suckle ewes, and are adopted by them. A California sheep-raiser states that a similar course is adopted in Germany, with best results. In a communication he says: "There, in general, the shepherd stays with his sheep all the time, day and night; and he has, according to the numbers of his flock, one or more dogs, a kind I never saw before nor have seen anywhere else. It resembles in size the Newfoundland, but its hair is bushy, long, and partly curled. This breed of dogs are never allowed, even when puppies, to see anything but the members of the herd. It is astonishing how these dogs and sheep fraternize with each other. The sheep look in real or imaginary danger more for the dogs than for the shepherd, and always run to and not from the dogs. If Americans wish to protect their sheep from strange dogs, they must adopt the German system, bring young shepherd dogs from their puppyhood into the company of sheep, educate both to live, eat, and run together, and they will soon find out their true relationship to each other, for the sheep will look upon the dog as a natural protector, which attitude and confidence he proudly will repay by untiring friendship and watchfulness."

## RURAL WORLD PREMIUMS.

We shall be glad to receive from all persons of reliability and good standing, any articles of general value to farmers for our premium list. Breeders of all kinds of livestock, poultry, &c., and manufacturers of farm implements and machines, by making contributions will find it answered to a certain extent as an advertisement, as it informs the public what they have to sell, gives their name, post-office address, &c., so that the public may know whom to address if they want anything in their line. The list of premiums will be kept standing in these columns until early in April, when the awards will be made. Every one that we have heard from, who has in this manner made a contribution to the RURAL WORLD, has felt that he has been well recompensed by benefits derived.

Wallace Bros., of Jackson, Mo., offer the following strawberry plants: 100 Capt. Jack, 100 Wilson's Albany, 100 Cumberland Triumph, 100 Monarch of the West, 50 Crystal City, and 50 Windsor Chief.

J. C. Evans, Harlem, Clay Co., Missouri, offers one barrel of large white artichokes.

A. J. Vinson, Jonesburg, Mo., offers one setting of eggs from either choice Plymouth Rock or Partridge Cocker fowls.

J. E. Porter, manufacturer of Porter's Hay Carrier, Ottawa, Illinois, offers one of these carriers as a premium—retail price, \$12. Circulars free.

John Lowe, of Johnsonville, Illinois, will give thirteen eggs from the White Pekin Ducks.

W. H. Lightfoot, 112 North 5th St., Springfield, Illinois, offers one setting (13) of Toulouse Geese eggs. Also, one setting (13) Plymouth Rock eggs.

Geo. W. Ham, Lathrop, Clinton Co., Mo., offers a choice Poland-China pig, either sex.

F. E. Marsh, Manhattan, Kansas, offers one setting of eggs from his superior Light Brahmas.

Henry Schnell, Bridgeport, Warren county, Mo., contributes 100 Capt. Jack, 100 Cumberland Triumph and 50 Windsor Chief strawberry plants, well packed and delivered at express office.

J. D. Washington, Breckenridge, Mo., offers one pure Essex pig, from as choice stock as the country affords.

Bauer & Walter, dealers in standard farm machinery, implements, &c., No. 116 North Main street, St. Louis, Mo., offer the Evans' corn drill. On account of its great simplicity in working, it is claimed to have no superior for dropping corn in drills.

K. H. Allen, O'Fallon, St. Charles Co., Mo., offers one thoroughbred Cotswold lamb, either sex.

Chalmer D. Colman, Lakeside farm, St. Louis, Mo., offers one choice Berkshire pig, either sex, from registered stock.

A. Ingram, Perry, Pike Co., Ill., offers one choice Jersey pig.

R. B. Westcott, Mason, Effingham Co., Ill., offers one setting (13) of Partridge Cockerin eggs.

One setting (13) of Brown Leghorn eggs.

One setting (13) of Plymouth Rock eggs.

One setting (9) of Bronze turkey eggs.

Mrs. N. J. Colman, St. Louis, Mo., offers one setting of eggs from choice Plymouth Rock fowls.

Judge Geo. W. Whiteside, Greenfield, Dade Co., Mo., offers one pair of choice Poland-China pigs.

Also one choice Poland-China pig, either sex.

Also a trio of choice Dark Brahmas fowls.

John M. S. Wise, Freeport, Ill., offers a setting (13) of eggs from pure Dominique fowls.

John Goss, Bellmore, Ind., offers one setting of Pekin duck eggs, from the best stock in the country.

H. H. Russell, Fayetteville, Johnson county, Mo., offers one pure Magpie sow pig, from choicest Ohio stock.

F. P. Vest, Osceola, Ill., offers for premium two settings of eggs to be chosen from the following varieties of game fowls, viz: Black-breasted Red, Tarsiers, Tornado, Brown Red, Stone Fence, Black-breasted Irish, Duck Wing.

Chas. G. McHatten, Fulton, Mo., offers one Berkshire pig, from registered stock.

Mrs. Bettie McHatten, Fulton, Mo., offers one choice trio of Light Brahmas fowls.

Robert Rennie McGill, florist, &c., Ainsworth, Ia., will give either flower or vegetable seeds or plants, to the value of \$3 and send catalogue to any address, as premiums to those getting up clubs for the RURAL WORLD.

Solomon Bocock, Philo, Champaign county, Ills., offers two settings of Partridge Cockerin eggs.

C. D. Stackhouse & Son, Rensselaer, Ills., offer one pure bred Jersey Red pig.

Ed. Sharp, of Sharpburg, Ills., contributes one setting (13) of Partridge Cockerin eggs.

Also, one setting (5) of Embury geese eggs—all to be from good stock, and carefully packed for shipment.







## The Home Circle.

Letter From Mrs. U. E. S.

Friends of the Home Circle: I have read many of your letters with much pleasure, and will be pleased to visit you occasionally. I am a plain farmer's wife, as I presume some of you are, or at least ought to be. My domestic duties will not permit me to visit you often. Sometimes I shall bring in my knitting and sit a while and talk over domestic economy, poultry, swine, fruits, &c.

Like Violet Shaw, already I see new eyes turned curiously upon your new visitor, but if they only gleam kindly, I, too, shall feel at home.

Schoolman, I would say to you, do as Trebor—lay aside the slates and switches. You have the same advantage. If you do not like teaching, you can farm. It is much healthier than being shut up in a school-room with the dirty little faces. Do not worry because you cannot plow; it will be no trouble to find some one who will be pleased to take charge of 100 acres of land and your two horses. I imagine I see you looking tired and weary from your every-day trials in the school-room. I have been there, and know how it is myself. Give me a kind companion, a little farm, cows, pigs, chickens and turkeys, rather than school-teaching. Look after the Widow, and cheer him up, or the Bachelors. If they are not preferable, take a boy to raise and go on your 100 acres of land. Have no fears; the land and horses will draw them. Be careful, though, as to whom the claim is laid. You might claim one who might think it convenient for you to teach occasionally, just for pastime, especially if he wanted more land. I think you would make a splendid farmer's wife. We have widowers here who need some one to cheer their sad hearts, and I dare say they like buggy riding better than dancing.

Aunt Mary, I do not understand your account of stock. You used 191 dozen of eggs, and have them charged one cent per dozen, and then charge yourself \$19.10. Perhaps it may be an error. You may have meant ten cents instead of one. If not, I cannot understand how you get \$19.10 for your 191 dozen of eggs; would like to know how many you have in family. It seems to me you use butter very sparingly and eggs very plentifully. I have four in family, and we use three pounds per week; could use more.

Mrs. Bucknell, I feel as if I were acquainted with you—your living in my native State and county, only eight miles from my dear old home. If you ever go to Edwardsville, by way of wagon, you pass my once dear home, where I was raised. I would like to be enlightened on that part of your letter referring to poor teachers robbing children of their brains. It is certainly very true that a child will learn more rapidly with a good teacher than with a poor one; yet, I think if it had ordinary understanding, it would be very hard to rob it of its mind. If teachers were permitted to use all manner of punishment, as they did in the days of our childhood, a few might be made warts; but those old-time teachers have mostly passed away, and the teachers of our public schools are angels, compared with the school system of thirty years ago. One of my old teachers, that I well remember, punished a boy so severely that in less than two days after the boy died. The matter was kept very quiet, but many people were firm in the opinion that the severity of the punishment brought on the sickness that ended in a speedy death. Punishment in Kansas is now mostly left with the school directors; hence I hardly think a teacher will be permitted to rob children of their minds.

Schoolman, please give us your opinion on this subject. Mrs. U. E. S. Lawrence, Kan.

### Questions Answered.

EDITOR RURAL WORLD: Necuba says she thought carnations required plenty of water, and treated her accordingly. Notices that they are rotten at the stem. The trouble here is too much water.

Mrs. D. asks if the so-called hybrid perpetual roses are not only hardy, but continuous bloomers; also for me to name such of the everblooming sorts most suitable for a door-yard. The perpetual roses are hardy; that is, most of them will bear our northern winters without protection. If it pays, however, to mulch the roots in the fall with stable litter. The term perpetual, as applied to the blooming period, is a misnomer. The natural time for them to bloom is in June, but sometimes they bloom the second time in August. This class of roses is in great demand for florists' stock, because, when we can get bloom from them at the holiday season by forcing, the buds bring enormous prices. During the holiday season in New York, Gen. Jacqueminot roses sold for \$100 for 100 buds.

When we come to consider the roses most suitable for a door-yard, such ones as we can go and pick a bud from every day in the summer time, we must select them from those usually catalogued as everblooming roses. There are many florists in this country who make a specialty of growing roses, and they have, therefore, better facilities for knowing which are the best of this class; but, having tested the following myself, I know there are some good ones among them, and I have no hesitation in saying they will give satisfaction to any one. But let it be understood that I do not claim them to be the best, but just that much in my own estimation:

Cornelia Cook is a tea rose, producing very large, white buds of perfect form. Niphotos, another tea rose, has snow-white buds of fine shape; always in demand.

Perle des Jardins is a clear golden-yellow, of wonderful size and fragrance. Letty Coles is a soft, rosy pink, large and very double, with tea fragrance.

The demand all over the country for these roses is so great that they are always more costly than the following list, which, however, contains some very fine roses: Agrippina, fiery crimson; Bella, pure white; Bon Silene, carmine; Hermosa, clear rose; Isabella Sprunt, canary yellow—and I might go on with many more.

Roses in the everblooming class may be set out as soon as the weather is settled, and they commence to bloom immediately. Our way of keeping them over winter is this: Just before winter sets in, cut the plant to within six inches of the ground; dig up the roots and pack them in nice, mellow soil, in a corner of the cellar, that has no window in it. The soil is well pressed down over the root, and I only give them water when the earth looks as dry as dust, because plants at rest, as they are, require very little water.

J. H. W. says: "Will you please tell us in one of your future letters if pansy seed can be sown in the spring, with any certainty that they will bloom the following summer?" Well, well, I thought I had written about pansies and how to grow them till everybody was tired of the subject. For myself, I never tire of them; only wish we had more of them. Most assuredly you can depend on getting flowers the same season from pansy seed, if sown early enough. Last season I sowed a few seeds in a box on January 20th, and set them in the window. In April, they were in bloom. This year, owing to many other things requiring attention, it was only yesterday that I got Mrs. Rennie to sow some seeds. She took a flat box, about four inches deep, and put in about three inches of fairly rich earth, smoothed the surface and then marked out drills an inch apart and a quarter of an inch deep; then sowed the seed, covered them, sprinkled the earth and put the box away in the dark. As soon as the seeds have germinated the box will need to be set in the light, and air given at every opportunity, or else the seedlings will damp off.

Will send a paper of pansy seed, containing from 150 to 200 seeds of all the colors we grow, for six cents; can also furnish separate colors of white, blue, yellow and king of blacks.

Pansies are my favorite flowers, and all the family take great pains in selecting the flowers that are to produce seeds. In this way we have managed to get a superior strain of pansy seed, very much different from that usually obtained from seed boxes left at the stores.

Pansies can also be bloomed the first season by sowing the seeds out-doors as soon as the ground can be worked. If they can be put in so as to secure the benefit of the spring rains, so much the better. Though pansy plants do best in shady places, don't put them under trees, for they will grow so weak and spindling that the flowers will amount to nothing.

N. J. sends a leaf of hoya carnosa, or wax plant, and asks if it can tell what makes the leaves rot and drop. Said plant is three years old and does not bloom. Her husband likes that plant the best of all she has, and she would like to know how to treat it. The hoya is a good house plant, as far as foliage is concerned. It bears the extremes of heat and cold well, but it is a very shy bloomer. It needs very little water, and I suspect the lady has been giving it too much. The hoya strikes root very freely just from a single leaf, but in order to get good plants, the cutting should have an eye or bud attached to it. Ainsworth, Ia. R. RENNIE.

## Letter From Lissa.

I noticed in the RURAL of February 20th, a piece from Bon Ami concerning the dance. She ends by saying that she believes what she has written, and does not wish to discuss the subject any further. As I do not wish to write but this one piece, could I not in the friendliest manner possible, with the best wishes for her enjoyment, give my views as one who is opposed to it? I will now proceed to give some facts I once read, which I think will go to prove that dancing is wrong:

1. It is a fact that the dancing mentioned approvingly in the Bible was carried on by the sexes separately and as a religious act.

2. It is a fact that dancing, however well done, adds no worth to the character.

3. It is a fact that a well-trained monkey can excel the best-taught young lady or gentleman in the use of the heels.

4. It is a fact that it requires no intelligence and no virtue to dance well.

5. It is a fact that there is no more honor in dancing well than there is in walking.

6. It is a fact that mixed dancing is extremely fascinating.

7. It is a fact that much valuable time is lost in this species of reveling.

8. It is a fact that much money is wasted on dancing.

9. It is a fact that people who cannot entertain themselves and each other in a rational way, and must employ their heels for this purpose, are to be pitied.

10. It is a fact that young ladies permit familiarities in the ball-room which public sentiment universally condemns, and that many females have been ruined by dancing.

11. It is a fact that the best young men of those who dance, do not wish their sisters to attend balls, and they will not marry dancing girls.

12. It is a fact that the whole spirit of dancing is worldly.

13. It is a fact that no one was ever noted for piety and dancing.

14. It is a fact that when a professor of religion follows dancing, his influence for good is lost.

15. It is a fact that men of the world think dancing inconsistent with the Christian profession.

16. It is a fact that the best people in the world never dance.

17. It is a fact that a dancing church member is not worth anything. As the love of dancing comes in, the love of God goes out.

18. It is a fact that the most pious and considerate in all the denominations are opposed and advise against it.

19. It is a fact that no young convert desires to dance.

20. It is a fact that no one ever dances to glorify God, but an apostle enjoins us to do everything to his glory.

21. It is a fact that dancing is reveling, and the Scripture condemns reveling.

22. It is a fact that the most ardent advocates of dancing always change their views in the presence of death.

All these facts are true and can be proven, without a doubt. "It is a safe rule," says one, "never to engage in anything upon which and in which we cannot ask the Divine blessing." Apply this simple rule to the dancing question, and your feet will never be found in the slippery ways of the ball-room. The evils of dancing are almost as numerous as those of whiskey.

I wish the readers to take Bon Ami's

article and this, and see which goes for the most. Publish this, and I will not trouble you again soon. Lissa.

### Letter from Herma.

COL. COLMAN: Having been a constant reader of your paper for some time past, I seek to gain admittance to the Home Circle. I am only a country girl and have never seen beyond the blue hills of the west, and am content with my wild mountain home. I wish some of the Home Circle friends would come out and spend the summer with me. I am sure some of you would like the sparkling rills and beautiful scenery of my dear mountain home.

I think, Minnie F., you have indeed deceived me. I would have guessed you to be a merry, romping, blue-eyed lass, instead of a wife and mother.

Nina, get the gun, if possible, if you live near a wood. It will keep you very busy in your leisure hours, keeping the rabbits from your apple trees and squirrels from your store of gathered nuts.

Daisy Dell, is Rupert Jackland dead, or is he angry with the members of the Home Circle? If he is living, let him show his pleasant face once more.

Critic, Brown Bessie, Uncle John, Widow, Schoolman, Orphan Boy, and others come again. HERMA.

Perry, Ills.

Letter from Observing Johnnie.

DEAR HOME CIRCLE: Allow me the honor. I would like to wander in your midst. While spending the holidays with my friends, in the way of sleigh riding, going to church and attending social parties, I was thinking whether Daisy Dell is yet driving across the prairie in a buggy, or probably in a sleigh at present.

Schoolman, have you accepted the invitation of Daisy Dell to go buggy riding with her across the prairie?

Daisy Dell, why don't you extend your invitations? I will say to Mr. Rupert or Trebor, or some other nice young man who is of medium size.

Cousin Charlie, I miss you very much in the Home Circle. Your trip to the east, seemed to be very agreeable to you; while on your return trip, you looked as pleasant and well pleased as if you were a brother to Miss Nina and Violet.

Uncle John, I was sorry to learn of the bad head in your family. I hope the ointment and onions, which were applied to your child, restored its health.

Schoolman, your letter was excellent. I think you must be living in the country, for you can give such a good description of the farmer. I think the farmer is the most independent of all laboring men.

Truth, I differ from you about Saturday being the day of rest and worship; the apostles and all church authorities after them, claimed and will claim that Sunday is the right day of worship and rest.

Ambert, I agree with you in your article on intoxication. It is true that many homes are desolate and many hearts rent, bleeding in consequence of a drunken son, an affectionate brother, a husband and so on; but I think there is no harm or any danger of becoming a drunkard by drinking moderately, when you know that you have full control of your appetite for intoxicating drinks.

Wishing the RURAL much prosperity, and kind wishes to the friends of the Circle, I will bid you adieu.

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### That Waste-Basket.

How we tire of it! How insipid are the everlasting comments upon it! Every new contributor must come up prancing, shouting and fainting, with a fear of that "awful," "gaping," "gaping," &c., waste-basket. Those of us who read the Home Circle of four or five weekly papers, must wade through volumes of silly twaddle about the W. B.—that consumes hours of time in the aggregate, and does not contribute a single idea or thought to the minds of the reading public.

If you intend to write upon any subject when you have your pen and ink before you, let your first lick strike your subject, and then stick to it until you are done; then quit, the editor will take care of the W. B. Some evidently begin or end a communication with comments on the W. B. for the purpose of lengthening their articles. Let them remember that five persons will read a short article, where one will read a lengthy one. If you desire to reach the ear of the public be brief. The public has neither time nor taste for long drawn or fine-spun articles. Observe that Idyll, the idol of the Circle, ignores the existence of the waste-basket.

Nina, our queen, gives it a right royal frown when it invades her majesty's dominions. Minnie F., Sol Baxter, Bon Ami, Miss Ted, and a multitude of the best writers in the Circle never allude to it.

I have read the home departments in a large number of papers, and am convinced that the RURAL WORLD has attained greater excellence and continued its interest for a longer period than any other paper of its class.

Ozark, Mo. MISS ANNE THROPE.

Letter from Troubled Mother.

DEAR HOME CIRCLE: As I have already been greatly benefited by your recipes, I write thinking of the vast number of readers of our dear old RURAL, there may be some who can tell what to do for my hands. They are affected with "salt rheum," or tetter, I don't know which. It commenced to annoy me about seven years ago, and since that time I have been terribly troubled with it. The symptoms are: An intolerable itching when on being scratched, present a dry and scaly appearance, and are very easy to chafe and crack open. I can't wash with soap, and anything containing salt, sugar or flour is very irritating to them. About twice a year they break out into small pimples containing yellowish water, which run into each other, forming solid sores.

I am a mother with several small children and try to do a good deal of my house and kitchen work, so you may know I am sorely tried to have them smart and burly each day, while bathing my baby or washing dishes. I have tried patent ointments, professing to cure all cutaneous eruptions, but they do no good. I believe everything with grease in it, irritates them, and that some kind of acid would do good, if I only knew what.

Hoping some one of you will advise me through the RURAL, I remain, yours, TROUBLED MOTHER.

REMARKS.—One physician who called in our office thought you might be cured by using chrysanthemum. Another physician said use an ointment composed of glycerin and starch—the druggists would know in what proportions. The above articles can be obtained at most of the large drug stores.

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Supper: Graham muffins, with butter apple, jelly and tea.

Thursday—For breakfast: Mutton chops, rye bread, fried potatoes and coffee.

Dinner: Mutton, stewed, with potatoes, light hop-yeast bread, apple custard and milk.

Supper: Milk and mush.

Friday—Fried mush for breakfast, plain beefsteak, butter or coffee, or milk if preferred.

Dinner: Beef, stewed, with potatoes, light hop-yeast bread, boiled onions and milk.

Supper: Oatmeal and rich milk.

Saturday—For breakfast: Light rolls, with butter, broiled beefsteak and coffee.

Dinner: Roast of mutton, boiled potatoes, corn bread, baked parsnips and milk.

Supper: Cold sliced mutton, graham muffins, with butter, baked apples and tea.

Mrs. B. F. SMITH.

Lawrence, Kan., Jan. 26.

P. S.—I do not think cake of any kind is healthy, nourishing or cheap. I see no use giving the price of the provisions, as the papers give the market reports of all provisions in the leading cities. My estimate for the provisions I have mentioned, will cost one person 77 cents per week. If the man is engaged in farming, it will cost still less.

Mrs. B. F. S.

Ma. G. H.: In answer to inquiries in the RURAL WORLD of December 23, I would say that the cheapest, simplest, healthiest and most nourishing meals would be as follows: Oatmeal mush with milk, and once in a while an egg.

I know this to be recommended by the best physicians in the north for weak lungs. I knew a man up north using this diet. He was but a skeleton, and his mind was affected, but when he commenced to eat this diet he soon got well. Yours, &c., J. B. COOLIDGE, JR.

Box 3, Dallas Co., Tex.

G. H.: Seeing your inquiry in the RURAL WORLD in reference to the best and cheapest meals for a week, I will furnish a bill of fare.

We are farmers, and suppose the readers of the WORLD are also farmers, and that you refer to farmer's meals.

Monday—For breakfast: Salt pork and potatoes, home-made light bread and butter, with our own Amber sirup and coffee, made of brown Indian meal.

Dinner: Boil a piece of corned beef with all kinds of vegetables, and if dessert is desired, an Indian bag-pudding, eaten with cream and sugar.

Supper: A light johnny-cake with butter, milk and bread.

Tuesday—Breakfast: Potatoes and pork, coffee, gingersnaps with light bread and butter.

Dinner: This is my baking day, so I will boil a large mess of beans with a piece of pork. When done, lift the pork and beans with a skimmer, leaving all the water, which will make an excellent soup for dinner, with a little molasses cake and a pitcher of cold water.

Supper: Warm biscuit and butter with a little fruit, or what we like better, our Amber sirup.

Much as I love strawberries and other small fruits, I would cheerfully plow up the last one of them if it caused me to work on the Sabbath.

There are plenty of other callings by which men can live, where they will not have to break God's laws in their prosecution.

What has become of all the Home Circle friends of late? Are most of them married off, or are some of them dead?

UNCLE JOE.

Letter from Libertas.

DEAR HOME CIRCLE: Will you allow a poor traveler in this dark vale of tears to seek admittance to your Home Circle?

I see you are showing signs of joy and happiness, and it might do me good if I can obtain a place in your ranks, even if I can be nothing but an armor-bearer.

I have been reading for over a year the interesting epistles of the various members of the Home Circle, and was particularly pleased with little Daisy Dell and Nina—I say little simply because I imagine they are.

Gen. Ambert advocates the temperance cause, and I say, Amen. Intemperance is one of the greatest evils of the age, and we must raise our banner, conquer or die.

Uncle John! Uncle John! Where are you going back to Mount Sinai? Why are you not afraid? Come back. Charge the people, lest they break through and the Lord to gaze, and many be destroyed. But here in steps Truth and asserts in the most positive manner that Uncle John's correct.

O Lord! how long shall we have to bear the burden our fathers could not bear? Shall we go back to the old dispensation?

Sabbatists, get away. "The Son of Man is greater than the Sabbath;" "The Lord is master of the Sabbath." "But," says Truth, "We have a Sabbath, but few will deny, and the Bible, our guide, tells us plainly that that day (our Saturday) is the seventh (Exodus xxi: 10) Sunday is the first day of the week, consequently Uncle John's conclusions are correct. He had never claimed but one day, and that is the seventh. The law that enjoins the observance of the seventh day cannot be applied to the first day of the week, therefore, Sunday is not a sacred day."

Then Truth goes on and offers ten dollars to him, her or them who will prove that he, Truth, has not slain the heathen who refuses to be a Jew.

Now, Truth, let us reason together. To whom was the Master's law proclaimed? What is the import of this law concerning the Sabbath? Read Exodus xxi: 14-16; Nehemiah xi: 31; Nehemiah xvi: 17; Nehemiah xiii: 19; and Jeremiah xvi: 21.

Now, the Sabbath, or "rest," was limited to the Jewish nation—"Hear Israel," etc., etc.—and was a type, a figure, of "the eternal rest," Heb. iv: 4-9. Let us then turn to a better dispensation—the economy of grace.

We celebrate Washington's birthday because he was the father of our country. We admire his virtues and greatness and erect a monument to his memory because he gave us a free government.

The Son of Man "died and rose for our justification." Through His sacrifice and resurrection we are made free. He rose from the dead, not on the Sabbath, but on the first day of the week. He appeared upon his followers, not on the Sabbath, but on the first day of the week. The early Christians in commemoration of that great event (the resurrection) gathered together and broke bread, not on Saturday, but on the first day of the week; John xxi: 19-26; Acts xxi: 7; 1st Cor. xvi: 2, etc. Christ appeared to John on Sunday in the Isle of Patmos. The women gathered at the river side on the first day of the week for prayer. The grandest manifestation of the power and love of God took place on the first day of the week. Sunday was the grand Dominica of Christians of all nations in all ages of the Christian era, and from the foundation of the Christian church to the present time for nearly nineteen centuries. Not one of them has thought to go back to Moses, except a few deluded Sabbatists, who still wear the veil before their faces, and have not the moral courage to "look to the end of that which is abolished." "Their minds are blinded."

For until this day remaineth the same veil, untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament, which veil is done away with Christ. But even until this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless, when they shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away." 2d Cor. iii: 13-14.

Now, dear Truth, if you are not convinced of the error of your way, I will call your attention to the following convincing evidences:

"Let no man, therefore, judge you in meat or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new man, or of the Sabbath day, which are shadows of things to come; but the body is of Christ." Col. ii: 16-17.

Now, dear Truth, I have endeavored to admonish in the spirit of meekness. I have not the least doubt that you are sincere in your views, but a man can be as sincere in error as he can be in the truth. I have presented for your careful meditation the above conclusive evidences against your notions on the Mosaic ordinances, and though it does not directly effect our eternal interests, we pretend it does, it is becoming for Christians to "come to some things, and retain that which is good," in harmony with the spirit of the gospel.



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**Letter From May.**  
Minnie F. when I first saw your name in the last paper, I was sure you were a friend of mine—her name being the same as yours. But when I read on further and saw that you were married, I found I was mistaken.  
Bon Ami, I think you are right in regard to dancing. I don't think there is any harm in dancing, and it is a great pleasure to young people.  
Ambert, you asked me to give a description of my ideal. It is a tall, graceful figure, about six feet in height, fair complexion, dark, wavy hair, brown eyes and very handsome, with a good disposition and moral habits.  
Nina, I would be delighted to join you, and go to the cotton-picking. I know we would have a delightful time, and I, too, will bring some of my favorites.  
Gen. Jacqueminot, I have no objections to you taking a seat by me, provided you will not be so easily led into temptation, and think you should consider both age and size. I am very small and somewhere in my teens.  
Daisy Dell, I want to ask a favor of you. It is to give me a description of yourself. Now, Daisy, don't refuse this simple request, for I am sure there are others who would like for you to do so as well as myself. I have pictured you as being a little, fairy-like creature, with blue eyes and sunny hair, and good-natured, always laughing and full of fun. Am I right?  
With a loving good-night to all, I am as ever,  
MAY.

**Letter From An Observer.**  
Friends of the Circle: I have read with much interest the articles on dancing that have made their appearance in the Home Circle. It is a question that has been brought before our society considerably this winter. Dancing has been denounced in strong terms by our ministers, and by the strength of their language they have caused some hard feelings. I think they take the wrong course to cure the evil.  
To my mind, dancing is not only one of the most healthy and harmless, but also the most pleasant and refining amusements, socially, which our young people enjoy. Who is there that ever saw a company of young people enjoying a well-conducted dance, and the same company (at the house of some good person who objects to dancing, perhaps) engaged in playing the games usually played under such circumstances, viz: kissing games (Ruth and Jacob, etc.), who can compare the two exercises for a moment without acknowledging that dancing is, to say the least, the lesser evil?  
I do not hold that dancing is, at all times, harmless; it can be carried to excess, as can almost everything else in this "vale of tears."  
There are a certain class of amusements, such as literary societies, reading clubs, etc., that are more beneficial than dancing for developing the mind; but of that class of amusements that are intended purely as recreations, I think dancing should stand at the head; that is, of social in-door amusements. It gives an ease and grace to the movements and tends toward begetting courtesy of manner among the participants.  
Round dances are considered worse than square or common quadrilles, as in these the lady and gentleman are brought close together, with hands resting on the waist or shoulder of the other. Now, is this any worse than to sit side by side in a carriage or at church or to walk arm in arm? Is it as bad as the hugging and kissing that is so often carried on at parties at the houses of those who are opposed to dancing? I am opposed to round dances at public balls and other places where ladies are liable to meet persons of whom they know nothing; but, at private entertainments, I have yet to be convinced of the sin of dancing.  
I would like to hear from others on both sides of the question, as it is one which is constantly coming up. Hoping that I may be met kindly by the Circle readers, I will say good-by for the present.  
AN OBSERVER.  
Egypt, Ill.

**Housekeeper's Alphabet.**  
Apples—Keep in dry place, as cool as possible without freezing.  
Brooms—Hang in the cellar-way to keep soft and pliant.  
Cranberries—Keep under water, in cellar; change water monthly.  
Dish of hot water set in oven prevents cakes, etc. from scorching.  
Economy time, health, and means, and you will never beg.  
Four—Keep cool, dry, and securely covered.  
Glass—Cleaned with a quart of water mixed with table-spoon of ammonia.  
Herbs—When beginning to blossom; keep in paper sacks.  
Ink Stains—Wet with spirits turpentine; after three hours, rub well.  
Jars—To prevent, cover "husband" to buy "Buckley Cookery."  
Keep an account of all supplies, with cost and date when purchased.  
Love lightens labor.  
Money—Count carefully when you receive change.  
Nutmegs—Prick with a pin, and if good oil will run out.  
Orange and Lemon Peel—Dry, pound and keep in corked bottles.  
Parsnips—Keep in ground until spring. Quicksilver and white of an egg destroys bedbugs.  
Rice—Select large, with a clear, fresh look; old rice may have insects.  
Sugar—For general family use the granulated is best.  
Tea—Equal parts of Japan and green are as good as English breakfast.  
Use a cement made of ashes, salt, and water for cracks in stove.  
Variety is the best culinary spice.  
Watch your back yard from dirt and bones.  
Xantippe was a scold. Don't imitate her.  
Youth is best preserved by a cheerful temper.  
Zinc-lined sinks are better than wooden ones.  
Z regulate the clock by your husband's watch, and in all appointments of time remember the Giver.

**A CARD.**  
To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, etc., I will send a receipt that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in the South American. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. JOSEPH T. INMAN, Station D, New York City.  
16-22

**Health Column.**  
**Good Health.**  
To obtain good health, first study to acquire a composure of mind and body. Avoid agitation or hurry of one or the other, especially just before and after meals, and while the process of digestion is going on. To this end govern your temper, endeavor to keep down as much as possible the unruly passions; discard envy, hatred and malice, and lay your head upon your pillow in charity with all mankind.  
**TEASING.**  
I would like to utter my protest against this senseless child injuring practice. How many children's dispositions are forever ruined by it! Many a mother sits by and writhes with anguish, while some kind friend laughing teases her child, dispelling at one stroke the good influence of many an hour of the mother's precious time. I have a little boy, a bright intelligent little fellow, at whose behavior I am often grieved, caused solely by some injudicious friends who will worry him into passion just to see him "show his spunk." Verily I should like to show mine at such a time! Often I have been obliged to punish the child when really the punishment should have fallen on the elder head. On such occasions I am moved to pray, "Save him from his friends—Bessie, in Woman's Journal."

**COLD FEET.**  
It is, as we have often labored to show, a mistake to suppose there is any warmth in clothes. Animal heat is the direct result of changes going on within the body itself. Nutrition by food and the discharge of energy by exercise are the efficient causes of heat. Clothes "seem" good and warm because they prevent the cold air and objects with a capacity for heat which surround the body from attracting the heat generated within its organism. The clothing is simply an insulator. It follows that it should be light in weight, and above all things that it should permit the free and full circulation of blood through every part of the system—to the end of every finger and toe—and that the muscular apparatus of the extremities should be in perfect working order. If we will wear foot coverings, whether boots or stockings, which compress the feet and render the separate action of each toe impossible, it is simply absurd to expect to be warm-footed. Heat is the complement of work and nutrition, and if a part of the organism is so bound that it cannot work, and its supply of food is limited, it must be cold. The resort to stouter and heavier clothing under such circumstances is simply ridiculous. Generally it is the stockings that compress the feet. The garter acts as a ligature and diminishes the blood supply, and the stocking itself acts as a bandage and impedes the circulation through the extremities.—Lancet.

**The Dairy.**  
**Dairy Schools.**  
A correspondent of the Agricultural Gazette, London, commenting upon dairy news, runs into the subject of dairy schools. He says: "Professor Sheldon has said that in the future the farmer's sheet-anchor will be milk-selling. Certainly the extension of dairying is the direction which the farming of the future will take. This being so, it would be as shameful as surprising if a vastly greater interest were not evoked in an attempt to secure improvement in the quality of our butter and cheese. That such is much needed is, also, too true. The fact is that Danish butter is being sold in English for the supplies of first-class hotels and on the retail counters in many towns; this, coupled with the complaints of butter dealers as to the small proportion of really first-class butter, proves the necessity of improving the products of the churn. Turning from the churn to the cheese vat, we find the same state of things, if not even worse, for it has been estimated that £2,000,000 a year is lost in the production of the vast weight of cheese of very medium quality, and still more of inferior. Hence it is a matter for rejoicing that in the future we are likely to see dairying receive that attention which it deserves, alike from large aggregate value of these two products as from the loss sustained by the lower class products. Whether the increase of real dairy shows will bring about the needed improvement may be a matter of doubt, but if they do not tend in that direction they will gravely fail in their mission. It is to be hoped that they may lead to other aids in that direction. Certainly England is behind other countries in this matter. On the continent a great effort is being made, including the most useful of all—the establishment of training schools. Ireland has got one or more such schools for the improvement of her butter. Soon we hope to hear of some in England, for surely we are not to be behind the rest of the world."

**Dairy Notes.**  
During the season of 1880, the Waterville, Wis., cheese factory received 800,000 pounds of milk, and made 80,000 pounds of cheese. The patrons were paid 93 cents per 100 pounds during the season.  
The exports of cheese and butter for January were 8,819,850 pounds of cheese and 1,852,720 pounds of butter, as against 8,692,169 pounds of cheese and 2,011,337 pounds of butter for the corresponding time of last year, showing a falling off in the exports of cheese of 372,309 pounds and a butter of 158,627 lbs. Why are these things thus?  
Illinois in 1870 produced 28,052,558 pounds of butter and 1,847,558 pounds of cheese; in 1879, 6,083,405 pounds of butter and 1,661,703 pounds of cheese. According to the report of the State Agricultural Department, the number of pounds of butter sold in Illinois in 1879 was 25,028,225; cheese, 6,618,212 pounds; cream, 230,497 gallons; milk, 96,659,854 gallons.  
Canada imported \$50,000 worth of cheese twelve years ago, but now she exports \$10,000,000 worth a year, and her exports of butter and cheese are \$4,000,000 larger than those of wheat. The quality of the cheese is also greatly improved, and this is ascribed to the factory system. Canadian cheese car-

ried off the first prize at the Centennial Exhibition against the world, and also at the International Dairy Fair at New York.  
During the year 1880, Arthur Heath made, at his cheese factory just northwest of Fredonia, Kansas, about seven thousand five hundred pounds of cheese. Last year he milked twenty cows. This year he intends using the milk of thirty cows, and will therefore greatly increase the amount of his cheese product. The cheese manufactured by Mr. Heath is second to none and the demand for it in Fredonia during the last year was far greater than his ability to make it.  
The butter, cheese and egg producers and dealers of northern and central Iowa have resolved to establish a Board of Trade at Cedar Rapids for the sale of their dairy products. The dairy interests of Iowa are rapidly developing into formidable proportions. At Elgin, Ill., a slight advance is noted in the butter and cheese market, but the dealers are inclined to fight shy of prevailing prices. On the Board of Trade 104,600 pounds of cheese sold at 9 1/2 to 10 1/2 cents, and 21,416 pounds of creamery at 31 to 32 1/2 cents the latter figures prevailing.  
Col. E. M. Litter, secretary of the National Butter, Egg and Cheese Association, met the committees of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, City Council and Board of Trade yesterday to perfect arrangements for the annual meeting of the association in that city March 2. Green's new Opera House was freely tendered for the meeting and the large hall of the Board of Trade for the exhibition of dairy products and implements. A large attendance of dairymen from all sections of the country is expected, and Gov. Gear will attend and give an address of welcome. Railroads will, it is confidently expected, grant favors in the shape of reduction in fares to those desiring to attend the meeting. Great interest is being manifested as the question of adulterated butter, which is now agitating dairymen and dealers in dairy products, will be very thoroughly and intelligently discussed.

**The Apiary.**  
**Storage of Honey.**  
This is a point, writes a correspondent, that few consumers of the article seem to know anything about. We were met on the street once by a man who began to run down a neighboring bee-keeper, said he was a cheat, sold poor honey, etc. The honey bought of him foamed and burst through the cups or the cells, and was not fit to eat. One question revealed all the cause of this ill feeling? "Where did you keep the honey?" "Down cellar," was the answer. Thus an honest man's reputation was likely to be seriously injured by the thoughtlessness of another.  
Honey should never be kept down cellar or where it is at all damp, for it will sour if every time. Don't think because your cellar seems dry that it will not hurt your honey, for it will do so. Keep your honey where it is dry and warm, not too warm, but enough so that you are sure there is no moisture there; nor where it will freeze, for severe frost will break comb honey and cause it to leak and look bad. Extracted honey becomes thin, watery and finally sour, when exposed to moisture. Keep it dry.

**Forestry.**  
**It Pays to Grow Forest Timber.**  
I tried, twenty-five years ago, to keep the original wood lot (on the farm) renewed and keep a good stand of timber, says the Ohio Farmer, by dressing up and planting in it, and it proved a failure. But I am now growing all the timber I want on the farm by planting seedlings, which I have propagated of such thrifty kinds as I choose and in such rows and belts for windbreaks and protection as my orchards and fields require. These trees are making very satisfactory growth, and it is all done very cheaply. So that I would recommend all farmers to plant groves and belts of timber, as their farms and locations require, and they would find that after a few years they might clear off their original woods and have acres of new land they planted their trees on, and would have a new and thrifty growth of timber instead of decaying forest timber, and would have it where it would be both useful and ornamental to the premises; besides the crop of old timber would probably much more than pay the cost of starting the new timber growth. Five or six years ago I planted two acres of four-year old seedlings of white elm and soft maple, in rows sixteen feet apart and three feet apart in the row, and now the best of them are twenty feet high and twelve inches in circumference, and for thinning out the rows I sell trees for more money than what would have brought grown in these same years, and can continue to sell until they are so large that I will take them for fire wood. I am growing a good crop of orchard grass between the rows, so that these acres in forest timber are paying as well, and are likely for years to come, as any other acres on the farm. I am cutting now the second crop of wood where the first or original wood was taken off about twenty-five years ago, and last winter a thousand rails were taken by a neighbor from one-third of an acre of similar growth, besides a quantity of wood from their tops and timber not making rails. Another neighbor used nice black walnut in building a house, sawed from trees that he had helped to plant when a boy. Our village of Batavia is admired for its fine rows of thick-growing forest trees along the streets. One soft maple on Main street was broken down by wind, and when cut up made two and a quarter cords of eighteen-inch wood, and the owner of it said he planted it there twenty-one years before; the stump measured nineteen inches in diameter, inside of the bark, and I could count about twenty circles outside of its red heart. Other trees on the same street were planted seventeen years ago last spring. The largest elm measures four feet around, two feet above the ground, and a maple measures three feet eight inches. I could give many more facts and figures to show that it does pay for Americans to plant forest trees both for fuel and timber, and hold that very few enterprises they can take hold of will pay better.  
H. IVES.  
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